



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: *David Gappa, 559-497-4020*
Sheila Oberto 559-497-4028

June 8, 2007

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**HANFORD AREA MAN GIVEN 17 1/2 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR
PRODUCTION OF OBSCENE IMAGES OF MINORS ENGAGED IN SEXUALLY
EXPLICIT CONDUCT AND RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF IMAGES OF CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WALTER MARCUS SCHALES, 47, of Armona, California, was sentenced by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to a prison term of 210 months (17 years 6 months) for his convictions of one count of producing or receiving obscene visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors, one count of receiving images of child pornography, and one count of possessing child pornography. He was convicted after a jury trial that ended on January 27, 2007. His term of imprisonment will be followed by a term of supervised release for the rest of his life, during which he will be required to register as a sex offender, and his access to children, computers, and the internet will be restricted.

The case was the product of an extensive investigation by the Kings County District Attorney's Office, the Hanford Police Department, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Fresno, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who prosecuted the case, it began on July 17, 2005, when an off-duty California Department of Corrections officer observed the defendant surreptitiously taking digital images of a minor female at a Wal-Mart store in Hanford, California. A Hanford Police Department officer seized the camera from the defendant, who had deleted the images from it, and cited the defendant for a misdemeanor offense. The Kings County District Attorney's Office, using forensic software, was able to recover images from the defendant's camera and obtained a search warrant for the defendant's residence. There they uncovered thousands of images of child pornography that had been obtained from various sources through the internet. They also discovered that the defendant had used a computer and various software programs to produce obscene visual images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Many of the images depicted minors being violently

abused, including by sadistic or masochistic conduct. The defendant had combined images that he had taken of approximately ten local minor females with images downloaded from the internet. The defendant used the software programs to insert himself, engaged in sexually explicit conduct with the minors, into many of the images. Several minors and/or parents testified at the trial and sentencing, and the judge cited the impact on them in choosing a sentence of imprisonment at the top of the range of 168-210 months.

SCHALES has been in federal custody, as a danger to the community and a flight risk, since a bail review hearing on October 26, 2005.

###